

GENERAL ORDER NO. 31

IN THE MATTER OF COURT REGISTRY FUNDS

I. RECEIPT OF FUNDS

A. No money shall be sent to the court or its officers for deposit into the court's registry without a court order by the presiding judge in the case.

B. Unless provided for elsewhere in this order, all money ordered to be paid into the court or received by its officers in any case pending or adjudicated shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States in the name and to the credit of this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2041 through depositaries designated by the Treasury to accept such deposit on its behalf.

C. The party making the deposit or transferring funds to the court's registry shall serve on the clerk of court the order permitting the deposit or transfer.

II. INVESTMENT OF REGISTRY FUNDS

A. All registry funds on deposit with the court are to be placed in some form of interest-bearing account. The Court Registry Investment System (CRIS) administered through the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, shall be the only investment mechanism authorized.

B. Under CRIS, monies deposited in each case under paragraph I.B., above, will be pooled together with those on deposit with Treasury to the credit of other courts in CRIS and used to purchase Treasury Securities, which will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in a safekeeping account in the name and to the credit of the Clerk, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, hereby designated custodian for CRIS.

C. An account for each case will be established in CRIS titled in the name of the case giving rise to the investment in the system. Earnings received from fund investments will be distributed to each case based on the ratio each account's principal and earnings has to the aggregate principal and income total in the fund each week. Weekly reports showing the interest earned and the principal amounts contributed in each case will be prepared and

distributed to each court participating in CRIS.

III. REGISTRY INVESTMENT FEE

A. The custodian is authorized and directed by this order to deduct, for maintaining accounts in the fund, the registry fee. The proper registry fee is to be determined on the basis of the rates published by the Director of the Administrative Office as approved by the Judicial Conference.

B. If the registry fee was assessed against a case deposit subject to the old 45-day requirement prior to the deposit in CRIS, no additional registry fee on that deposit will be assessed.

C. The custodian of CRIS now being responsible for the deduction of the registry fee, this court's former General Order No. 31 dated October 10, 1989 is hereby rescinded and is replaced by this revised General Order No. 31.

IV. TRANSITION FROM FORMER INVESTMENT PROCEDURE

A. The clerk of court is further directed to develop a systematic method of redemption of all existing investments and their transfer to CRIS. New deposits into CRIS shall not occur until the severance of the relationship with the court's prior registry depository and the clerk determines that CRIS is able to begin accepting new accounts.

B. Parties not wishing to maintain investment instruments in CRIS may transfer them to the litigants or their designees on proper motion and approval of the court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: October 10, 1989
AMENDED: May 21, 1996

FOR THE COURT

THELTON E. HENDERSON, Chief Judge